

Pressure Dependence of Superconducting Transition Temperature on Perovskite-Type Fe-Based Superconductors and NMR Study of $\text{Sr}_2\text{VFeAsO}_3$

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We report the pressure dependences of the superconducting transition temperature (T_c) in several perovskite-type Fe-based superconductors through the resistivity measurements up to ~ 4 GPa. In $\text{Ca}_4(\text{Mg,Ti})_3\text{Fe}_2\text{As}_2\text{O}_y$ with the highest T_c of 47 K in the present study, the T_c keeps almost constant up to ~ 1 GPa, and starts to decrease above it. From the comparison among several systems, we obtained a tendency that low T_c with the longer a -axis length at ambient pressure increases under pressure, but high T_c with the shorter a -axis length at ambient pressure hardly increases. We also report the ^{75}As -NMR results on $\text{Sr}_2\text{VFeAsO}_3$. NMR spectrum suggests that the magnetic ordering occurs at low temperatures accompanied by some inhomogeneity. In the superconducting state, we confirmed the anomaly by the occurrence of superconductivity in the nuclear spin lattice relaxation rate $1/T_1$, but the spin fluctuations unrelated with the superconductivity are dominant. It is conjectured that the localized V-3d moments are magnetically ordered and their electrons do not contribute largely to the Fermi surface and the superconductivity in $\text{Sr}_2\text{VFeAsO}_3$.

KEYWORDS: Perovskite-type Fe-based superconductor, $\text{Sr}_2\text{VFeAsO}_3$, pressure effect, NMR

1. Introduction

In Fe-based superconductors, two dimensional layers composed of Fe and pnictogen (or chalcogen) are stacked with sandwiching the block layers or ions. FeSe is a binary compound without block layers,¹⁾ and 111 systems such as LiFeAs or 122 systems such as $(\text{Ba,K})\text{Fe}_2\text{As}_2$ have ions between FeAs layers.^{2,3)} Firstly discovered 1111 systems possess relatively thick block layers,⁴⁾ and afterward 21113 systems such as $\text{Sr}_2\text{ScFePO}_3$ and

$\text{Sr}_2\text{VFeAsO}_3$ with thick perovskite-layers were discovered.^{5,6)} Characteristic point of Fe-based superconductors is richness of the structural kinds. Recently, in the perovskite-type Fe-based superconductors, Ogino and co-workers discovered some new superconductors with the relatively high superconducting transition temperature (T_c) of 40 K class.^{7–11)} For example, their compositions and T_c^{onset} are $\text{Ca}_4(\text{Sc}_{0.67}\text{Ti}_{0.33})_3\text{Fe}_2\text{As}_2\text{O}_y$ ($T_c^{\text{onset}} = 33$ K), $\text{Ca}_5(\text{Sc}_{0.5}\text{Ti}_{0.5})_4\text{Fe}_2\text{As}_2\text{O}_y$ ($T_c^{\text{onset}} = 41$ K), $\text{Ca}_6(\text{Sc}_{0.4}\text{Ti}_{0.6})_5\text{Fe}_2\text{As}_2\text{O}_y$ ($T_c^{\text{onset}} = 42$ K), and $\text{Ca}_4(\text{Mg}_{0.25}\text{Ti}_{0.75})_3\text{Fe}_2\text{As}_2\text{O}_y$ ($T_c^{\text{onset}} = 47$ K). Here T_c^{onset} indicates the onset temperature of resistivity drop. Figure 1 shows the crystal structures of these compounds indicated $\text{Ca}_{n+1}\text{M}_n\text{Fe}_2\text{As}_2\text{O}_y$ [$n = 3, 4, 5$, $y \sim 3n - 1$, $M = (\text{Sc,Ti})$ and (Mg,Ti)] and $\text{Sr}_2\text{VFeAsO}_3$. The T_c of more than 40 K exceeding the maximum T_c of 11, 111, and 122 systems implies that two-dimensional crystal structure is favorable for high T_c . These findings give us an opportunity to investigate an importance of two dimensionality of crystal structure for high T_c , but first we need to know whether these T_c 's are indeed the maximum of the systems. We have two effective ways to control T_c in Fe-based superconductors. One is a chemical carrier doping, but unfortunately it is difficult to obtain the sample of the single phase with different composition from the present sample. Another way to control T_c is applying pressure. For instance, the material showing the most drastic change under pressure is FeSe. Its T_c of 8 K increases to 37 K under pressure.^{12–15)} From comparisons of the structures and T_c in FeSe under pressure and in some Fe-based superconductors, the height of pnictogen or chalcogen from Fe-plane (h) is suggested

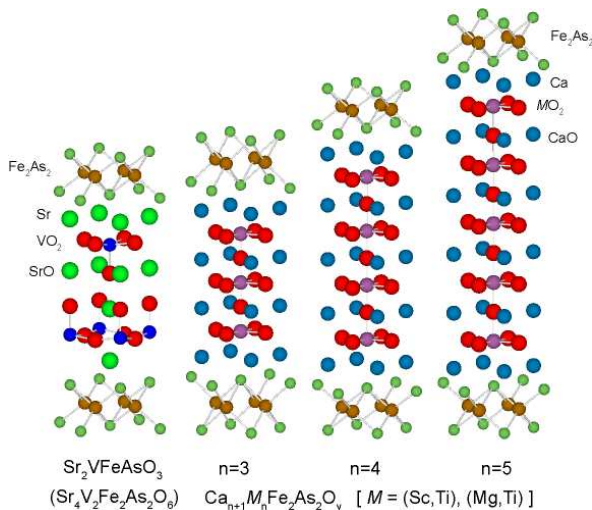


Fig. 1. (color online) The crystal structures of $\text{Sr}_2\text{VFeAsO}_3$ and $\text{Ca}_{n+1}\text{M}_n\text{Fe}_2\text{As}_2\text{O}_y$ with $n = 3, 4, 5$ [$y \sim 3n - 1$, $M = (\text{Sc,Ti})$ and (Mg,Ti)].

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to be the most important factor for high T_c .^{16–18)} On the other hand, we have investigated the pressure dependence of T_c in $\text{Sr}_2\text{ScFePO}_3$ and $\text{Sr}_2\text{VFeAsO}_3$.¹⁸⁾ The T_c of 17 K in $\text{Sr}_2\text{ScFePO}_3$ with lower h decreases drastically, while the T_c of 37 K in $\text{Sr}_2\text{VFeAsO}_3$ with higher h increases up to 46 K under pressure.¹⁸⁾ If we recognize that the h has the optimized value between those of two compounds and that h decreases under pressure in both compounds, this contrasting pressure effect can be explained qualitatively. Thus we consider that pressure is an effective way to control T_c through a change of h as a main factor. Although h is not determined experimentally in most of new perovskite-type superconductors at present, $\text{Sr}_2\text{VFeAsO}_3$ with similar structure shows the drastic increase in T_c . The pressure effects for the new superconductors are promising for obtaining higher T_c .

On the other hand, $\text{Sr}_2\text{VFeAsO}_3$ has a different issue. The band calculation has suggested the V orbitals contribute to the formation of the Fermi surface.¹⁹⁾ The existence of the same nesting properties as those of other Fe-based superconductors, which are believed to be involved with superconductivity, seems to be controversial in $\text{Sr}_2\text{VFeAsO}_3$.^{20–22)} It should be clarified whether the superconductivity in $\text{Sr}_2\text{VFeAsO}_3$ is understood in the same framework as those in other Fe-based superconductors. Quite recently Qian *et al.* reported that the similar nesting properties to other Fe-based superconductors remain in this compounds through an angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy.²³⁾ In this paper, we performed ^{75}As -NMR measurement on $\text{Sr}_2\text{VFeAsO}_3$ and the resistivity measurements under pressure in some 21113 systems.

2. Experimental Procedure

Polycrystalline samples were synthesized by solid-state reaction.^{7,8)} Electrical resistivity (ρ) measurement at high pressures up to ~ 4 GPa was carried out using an indenter cell.²⁴⁾ Electrical resistivity was measured by a four-probe method using silver paste for contact. The typical sample dimensions were $0.8 \times 0.3 \times 0.2 \text{ mm}^3$. We used Daphne 7474 for the resistivity measurement as a pressure-transmitting medium.²⁵⁾ Applied pressure was estimated from the T_c of the lead manometer. The NMR measurement was performed by a standard spin-echo method. The powdered sample are partially oriented under magnetic field by a mechanical shock.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Pressure effect in Perovskite-type Fe-based superconductors

Figure 2 shows the temperature dependences around T_c in $\text{Ca}_{n+1}(\text{Sc,Ti})_n\text{Fe}_2\text{As}_2\text{O}_y$ ((a): ScTi $n = 3$, (b): ScTi $n = 4$, and (c): ScTi $n = 5$) and $\text{Ca}_4(\text{Mg,Ti})_3\text{Fe}_2\text{As}_2\text{O}_y$ ((d): MgTi $n = 3$). Each T_c^{onset} and T_c^{zero} is determined as shown at ambient pressure in the figure. In the ScTi system with $n = 3$, T_c increases under pressure and almost saturates at around 4 GPa. The increase in T_c is estimated to be 3.1 K at 4.32 GPa. Similarly the ScTi system with $n = 4$ also shows an increase in T_c under pressure, but T_c 's are almost same between 1.62 and 3.03 GPa. The T_c obviously decreases at 3.94 GPa. In

the case of $n = 5$, an increase in T_c is less than 1 K, and T_c decreases above 3 GPa. In the MgTi system with $n = 3$ which possesses the maximum T_c among these compounds, T_c is almost unchanged between 0 and 0.85 GPa, and it starts to decrease above ~ 1 GPa.

Figure 3 shows the pressure dependences of T_c^{onset} and T_c^{zero} . We can see a clear tendency that T_c which is lower

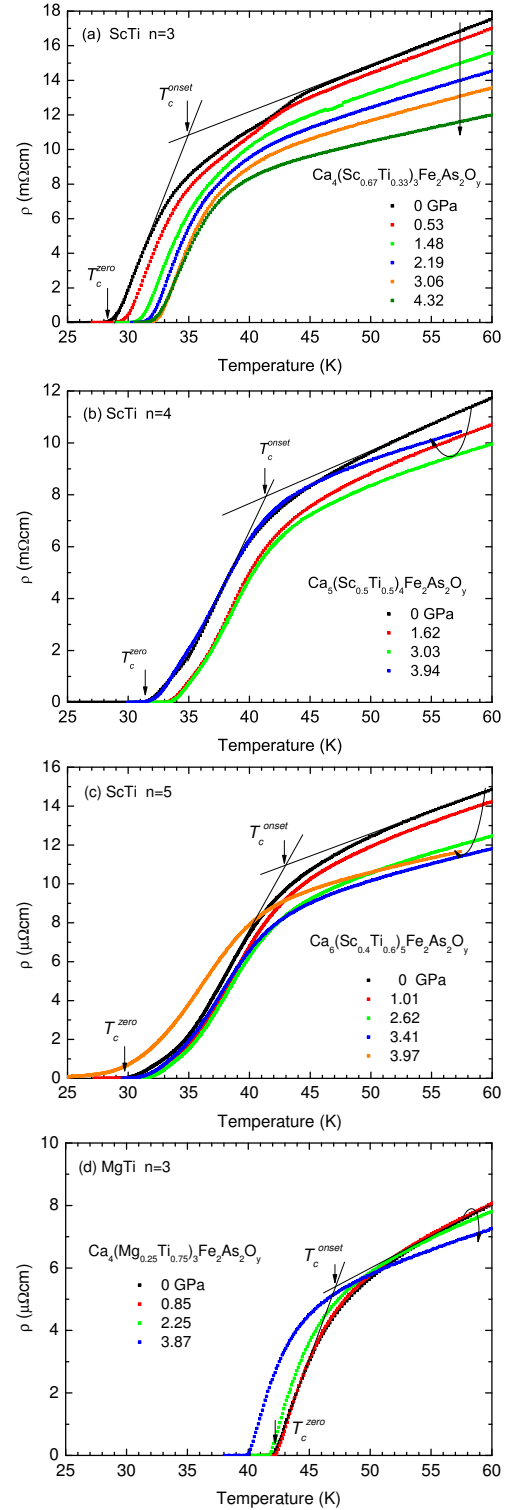


Fig. 2. (color online) Temperature dependences of resistivity under pressures up to ~ 4 GPa in $\text{Ca}_{n+1}(\text{Sc,Ti})_n\text{Fe}_2\text{As}_2\text{O}_y$ ($n = 3, 4, 5$, $y \sim 3n - 1$) and $\text{Ca}_4(\text{Mg,Ti})_3\text{Fe}_2\text{As}_2\text{O}_y$. The T_c^{onset} and T_c^{zero} are defined as shown in the figure.

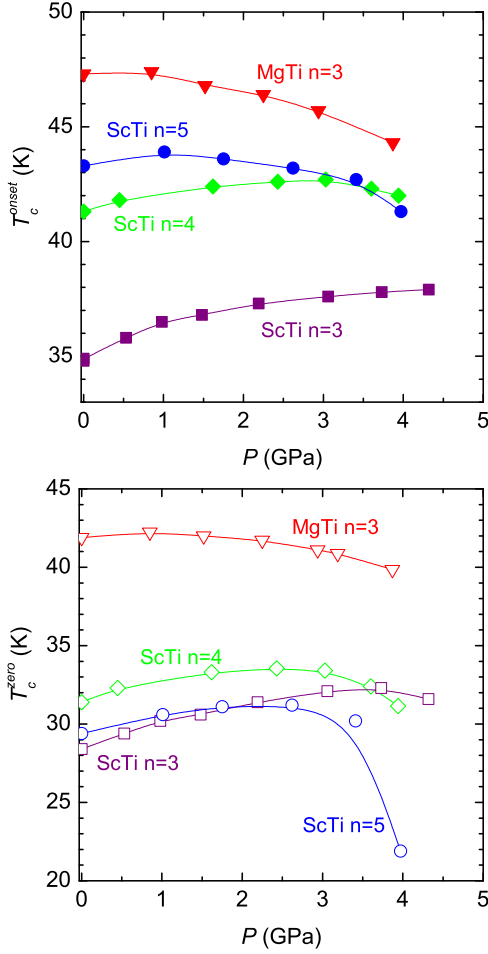


Fig. 3. (color online) Pressure dependences of T_c^{onset} and T_c^{zero} in $\text{Ca}_{n+1}(\text{Sc,Ti})_n\text{Fe}_2\text{As}_2\text{O}_y$ ($n = 3, 4, 5$, $y \sim 3n - 1$) and $\text{Ca}_4(\text{Mg,Ti})_3\text{Fe}_2\text{As}_2\text{O}_y$.

at ambient pressure can increase under pressure but T_c which is already high at ambient pressure does not increase any more. This tendency is reminiscent of that in 1111 systems,^{26,27} and seems to indicate that the T_c of around 47 K is the maximum in these perovskite-type systems. At least, applying pressure is not the effective way to obtain much higher T_c in these systems.

Next we report pressure effect on 21113 systems. We have already investigated the pressure effect in $\text{Sr}_2\text{VFeAsO}_3$.¹⁸ Figure 4(a) is the same data as the previous report. T_c^{onset} of 36.4 K increased up to 46.0 K under ~ 4 GPa. Figure 4(b) shows the results in $\text{Sr}_2\text{VFeAsO}_3$ with lower T_c . Han *et al.* synthesized the sample with different T_c with changing the content of oxygen in the nominal composition.²⁸ At present we cannot conclude what is difference between high- T_c sample and low- T_c sample from structural analysis, but it likely originates from the difference in carrier density on the analogy of their Hall effect measurement.²⁸ As shown in the figure, this compound also shows the large increase of ~ 10 K in T_c under pressure. Figures 4(c) and (d) show the pressure effects on $\text{Sr}_2(\text{Mg}_{0.3}\text{Ti}_{0.7})\text{FeAsO}_3$ and $\text{Sr}_2(\text{Mg}_{0.5}\text{Ti}_{0.5})(\text{Fe}_{0.95}\text{Co}_{0.05})\text{AsO}_3$.²⁹ The superconductivity in each compound is induced by the different method of electron doping and the T_c 's in two compounds

are different. However, the T_c 's in both compounds increase similarly under pressure and almost saturate at around 4 GPa.

Figure 5 shows the pressure dependence of T_c^{onset} in four 21113 systems. All the compounds shows the increase in T_c and seems to saturate at around 4 GPa. The top panel shows the pressure dependence of $\Delta T_c^{\text{onset}}$

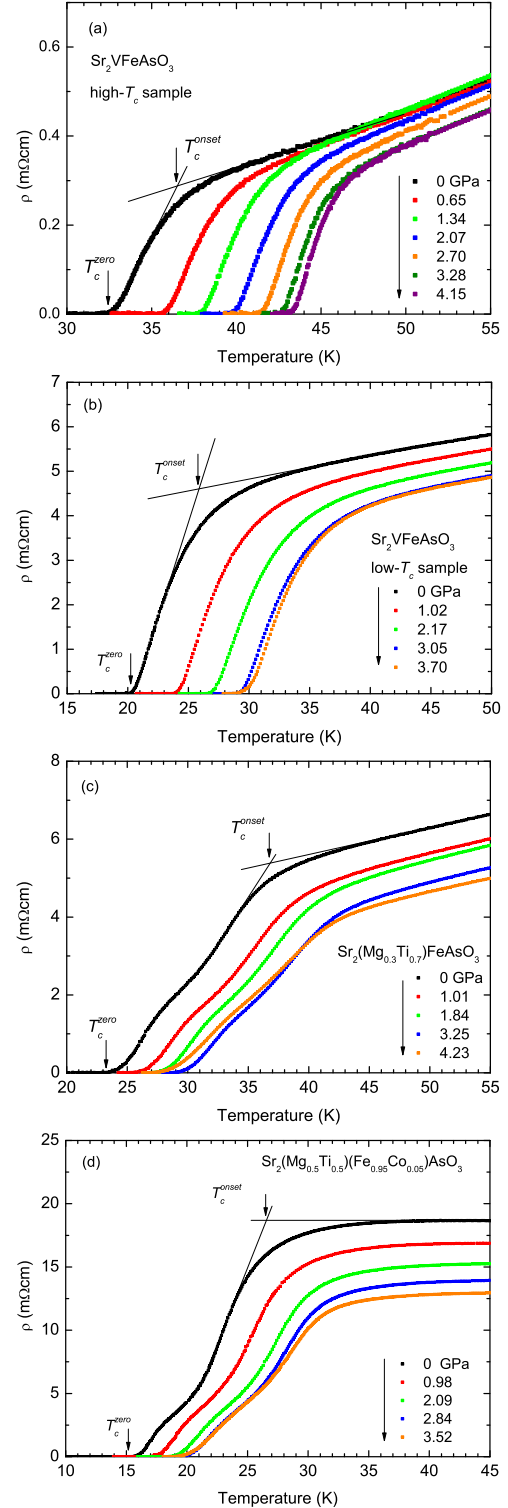


Fig. 4. (color online) Temperature dependences of resistivity under pressures up to ~ 4 GPa in $\text{Sr}_2\text{VFeAsO}_3$ with high T_c and low T_c , $\text{Sr}_2(\text{Mg}_{0.3}\text{Ti}_{0.7})\text{FeAsO}_3$, and $\text{Sr}_2(\text{Mg}_{0.5}\text{Ti}_{0.5})(\text{Fe}_{0.95}\text{Co}_{0.05})\text{AsO}_3$.

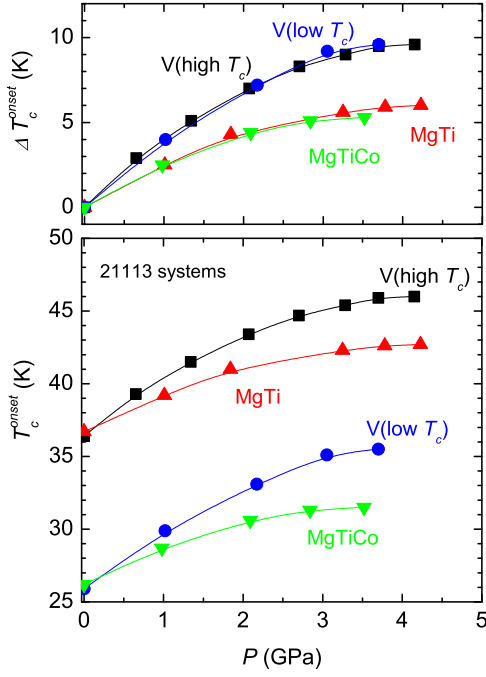


Fig. 5. (color online) Pressure dependences of T_c^{onset} and $\Delta T_c^{\text{onset}}$ in $\text{Sr}_2\text{VFeAsO}_3$ with high T_c and low T_c , $\text{Sr}_2(\text{Mg}_{0.3}\text{Ti}_{0.7})\text{FeAsO}_3$, and $\text{Sr}_2(\text{Mg}_{0.5}\text{Ti}_{0.5})(\text{Fe}_{0.95}\text{Co}_{0.05})\text{AsO}_3$.

which is difference in T_c^{onset} between at ambient pressure and under pressure. We can see the clear overlap in each compound for V systems and for MgTi systems, even though the original T_c 's are different. Note that we cannot observe such an overlap in pressure dependence of $T_c^{\text{onset}}(P)/T_c^{\text{onset}}(P = 0\text{ GPa})$. The difference in T_c at ambient pressure is considered to attribute to mainly the difference in the carrier density. The clear overlap implies that the increase in T_c under pressure can be explained without considering the change in the carrier density, that is, the pressure variation of the crystal structure is an important factor leading to the increase in T_c . In addition, the similar pressure curves in P vs. T_c^{onset} under pressure between V systems and MgTi systems impresses that the superconductivity in both compounds occur in the same framework, that is, the electrons in the block layer are unrelated with the superconducting mechanism.

Table 1 indicates the T_c^{onset} at ambient pressure, the maximum $\Delta T_c^{\text{onset}}$ ($\Delta T_{c,\text{max}}^{\text{onset}}$), and the pressure with the maximum $\Delta T_c^{\text{onset}}$ (P_{max}), the a -axis length, and the pnictogen-height, h . The T_c^{onset} 's in the present samples do not exceed 50 K even under pressure. Rather applying pressure is ineffective for raising T_c for the material which possesses already high T_c . As already pointed out, these systems have a tendency that T_c at ambient pressure increases as the a -axis length decreases.⁸⁾ The relationship between the a -axis length and h is not clear in these systems, but if we recognize that $h \sim 1.38 \text{ \AA}$ in NdFeAsO_{1-y} is the optimized value,^{16,17)} the MgTi system with $n = 3$ might have h close to 1.38 \AA . Otherwise, h 's of these compounds might be higher h than 1.38 \AA at ambient pressure and have a tendency to decrease largely under pressure as the a -axis length is longer. Anyway, de-

tailed structural analyses are desired for understanding what governs the T_c in these systems.

	T_c^{onset}	$\Delta T_{c,\text{max}}^{\text{onset}}$	P_{max}	a	h
MgTi21113	36.7	6.0	≥ 4	3.936	*
V21113	36.4	9.6	≥ 4	3.930	1.42
ScTi $n=3$	34.8	3.1	≥ 4	3.922	-
ScTi $n=4$	41.3	1.4	3	3.902	-
ScTi $n=5$	43.3	0.6	1	3.884	-
MgTi $n=3$	47.3	~ 0.1	~ 0.5	3.877	-

Table I. T_c^{onset} at ambient pressure (K), the maximum $\Delta T_c^{\text{onset}}$ (K), and the pressure with the maximum $\Delta T_c^{\text{onset}}$ (GPa), a -axis length (\AA), and h (\AA). The h indicates the height of As from Fe-plane. The structural data were obtained from other paper.^{6-8,29)} The h of some compounds indicated by - are still unclear. (*): In MgTi21113, we measured the pressure effect on $\text{SrMg}_{0.3}\text{Ti}_{0.7}\text{FeAsO}_3$, and h is estimated to be 1.40 \AA for $\text{SrMg}_{0.5}\text{Ti}_{0.5}\text{FeAsO}_3$.³⁰⁾

3.2 ^{75}As -NMR Study in $\text{Sr}_2\text{VFeAsO}_3$

We demonstrate ^{75}As -NMR measurement in $\text{Sr}_2\text{VFeAsO}_3$ to clarify the V-3d electronic state and the properties of the superconductivity. Figure 6 shows ^{75}As -NMR spectra for the transition of $-1/2 \leftrightarrow 1/2$ measured at $\sim 6.2 \text{ T}$ and at several temperatures. At high temperatures, the spectrum exhibits the powder pattern affected by quadrupolar interaction. The quadrupole frequencies are estimated to be 7.23 MHz

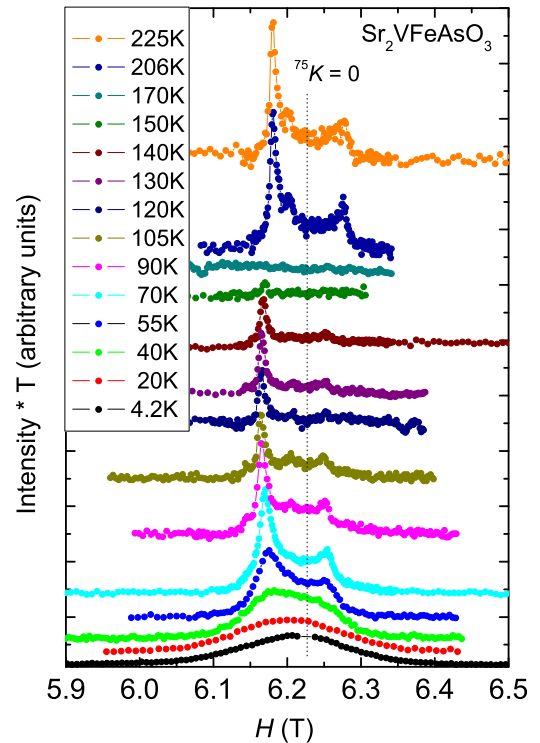


Fig. 6. (color online) ^{75}As -NMR spectra at several temperatures. The signal disappears at $155 - 190 \text{ K}$. The spectrum markedly broadens at low temperatures, indicative of the appearance of the internal field.

at 4.2 K and 7.77 MHz at 210 K from the splitting of $-1/2 \leftrightarrow -3/2$ and $1/2 \leftrightarrow 3/2$ transitions (not shown). The distinct peak observed at lower field corresponds to $H \parallel ab$, meaning that the sample is partially oriented to $H \parallel ab$. In the temperature range of 155 – 190 K, the signal completely disappears owing to the fast relaxation, indicating that some phase transition occurs at ~ 170 K. Note that this temperature range of the signal loss is unchanged between 6.2 T and 12 T. The signal recovers below 150 K but it is still small. At low temperature, especially below 70 K, the spectrum obviously broadens and the characteristic shape of the powder pattern is lost below 40 K. This broadening strongly suggests that the internal field appears at low temperature in this system, because we confirmed the similar broadening independently of applied magnetic field.

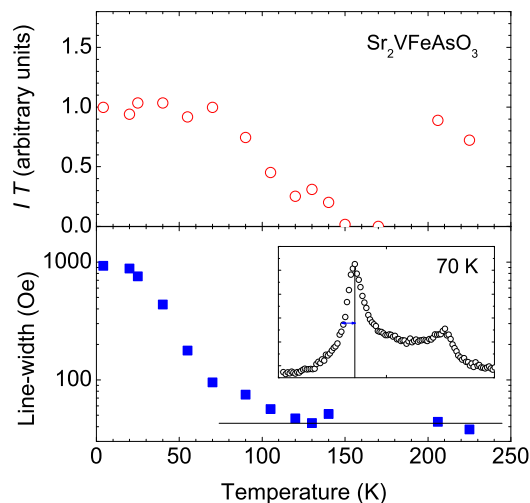


Fig. 7. (color online) The temperature dependences of the intensity \times temperature (IT), and line-width. The arrow of the inset corresponds to the estimated line-width.

Figure 7 shows the temperature dependences of the product of the intensity and temperature (IT), and line-width. Here the intensity was obtained by integrating all the spectrum of the powder pattern without a correlation for nuclear spin-spin relaxation time, and the line-width was obtained from half-width as shown in the inset. IT should keep constant in principle, and certainly shows constant below 70 K. It does not recover in the temperature range of 90 – 150 K, meaning that we do not observe the whole part in the sample in this temperature range. The line-width of 120 – 150 K is still as narrow as that above 200 K, indicating that the internal field at As site is quite small or zero in the region where we observe through NMR. The line-width increases moderately from ~ 120 K down to 70 K accompanied by the recovery of the signal intensity. We can conjecture that the internal field is already induced even above 120 K in the region where we cannot observe owing to the fast relaxation. On the other hand, the line-width is rapidly increases below ~ 70 K. The observation of the clear powder pattern at 70 K, where the signal is almost recovered, indicates

that large internal field does not appear along any directions at the As site in this temperature. The rapid increase in the line-width suggests the rearrangement of the magnetic structure or the development of the ordered moment.

The spectrum at 4.2 K is symmetric with the center at the position close to $K = 0$. If the internal field at the As-site lies antiferromagnetically in the ab plane, the partially oriented powder pattern along $H \parallel ab$ is expected to change to the rectangular shape with the sharp edge, but this does not match the present spectrum. The internal field is rather suggested to turn along the c axis at the As-site, although the large broadening of the spectrum seems to exclude the perfect alignment along the c -axis. Recently, Cao *et al.* suggested that the ordered moment is absent at the Fe site, and Tegel *et al.* showed the possible incommensurate magnetic ordering of V moment with a propagation vector of $q = (0, 0, 0.306)$.^{31, 32} Unfortunately, it is difficult to address the magnetic structure from the present NMR spectrum, because we cannot obtain the hyperfine coupling constants at present. However our experiments strongly suggest that the existence of the magnetic ordering and the change in the magnetic state at ~ 70 K. Cao *et al.* also observed two magnetic transitions at ~ 150 K and ~ 55 K.³¹ The increase in the internal field at the As site below 70 K most likely corresponds to the second phase transition.

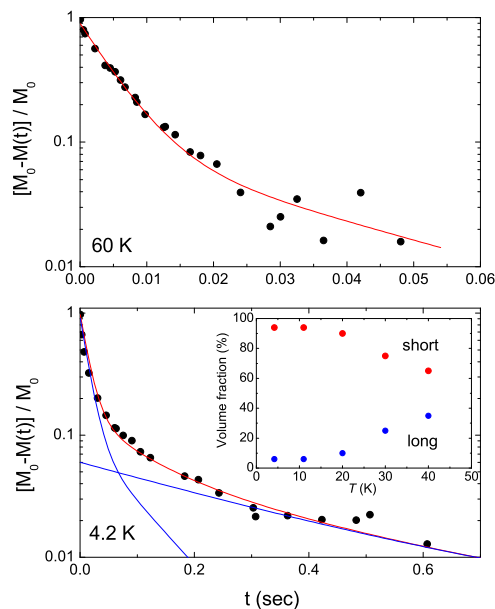


Fig. 8. (color online) The recovery curves at 60 K and 4.2 K. The T_1 is uniquely determined at 60 K, but we used two-components fitting below 40 K. The inset shows the temperature dependence of each volume fractions. The short component is dominant at low temperatures.

Figure 8 shows the recovery curves to obtain the nuclear spin-lattice relaxation time T_1 . The red curves are the fitting results, which follow the experimental data well at 60 K. However, we cannot fit the data by one component below ~ 40 K, and we used two-components fitting to obtain the short component and the long compo-

nent in T_1 . As shown in the figure, this two-components fitting follows the experimental data well, but this indicates that the electronic state is spatially inhomogeneous. The inset shows the temperature dependence of the volume fraction of both components. At low temperatures, it is found that the short component is dominant in the sample.

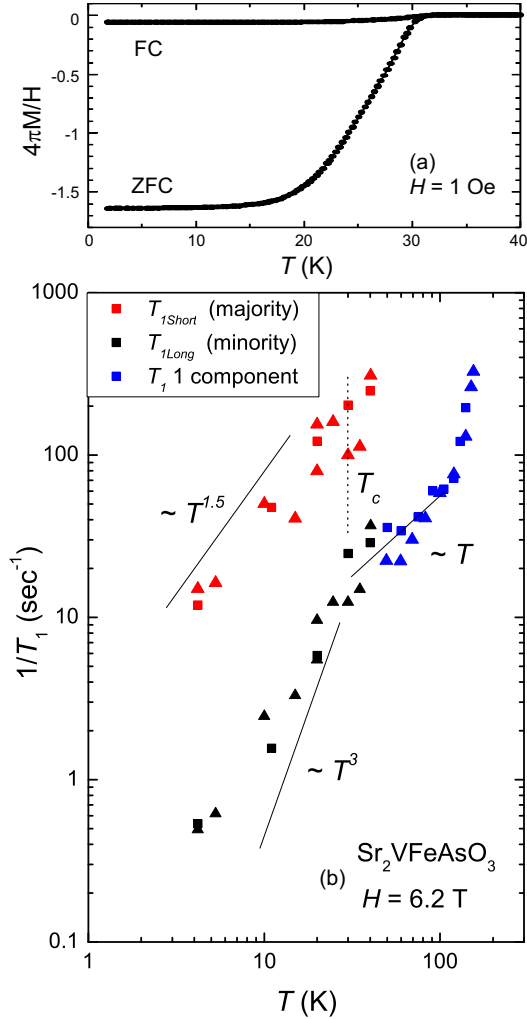


Fig. 9. (color online) Temperature dependence of magnetization and $1/T_1$ in $\text{Sr}_2\text{VFeAsO}_3$. The sample shows a clear diamagnetic signal. FC and ZFC indicate field cooling and zero-field cooling, respectively. T_1 is not determined uniquely below 40 K corresponding to the inhomogeneous of the electronic state. We observed the significant decrease in $1/T_1$ in the long component below T_c , but the majority part at low temperatures is the short component which is insensitive to the occurrence of the superconductivity. We measured two different samples which are distinguished by the squares and the triangles.

Figure 9 shows the temperature dependence of magnetization and $1/T_1$. We checked two different samples and obtained almost same data. The $1/T_1$ shows the rapid increase toward ~ 170 K, indicative of the critical slowing down of the spin fluctuations at the phase transition of ~ 170 K. The relation roughly close to $T_1 T = \text{constant}$ is observed below 120 K, but the short component in T_1 ($1/T_{1\text{Short}}$) rapidly appears below 40 K accompanied by the broadening of the spectrum. The long component in

$1/T_1$ ($1/T_{1\text{Long}}$) is smoothly connected to the $1/T_1$ of 1 component. It also shows the decrease below T_c with the slop slightly slower than T^3 . However, $1/T_{1\text{Short}}$, which is majority at low temperatures, seems not to be affected by the occurrence of the superconductivity, although the sample shows a clear Meissner effect of more than 100 % in the volume fraction. This behavior resembles that of PrFeAsO_{1-y} system where the spin fluctuations from Pr-localized moments are dominant compared with that from the conduction electrons.³³⁾ This indicates that the spin fluctuations of some localized moment, presumably V moment, are dominant below 40 K in $\text{Sr}_2\text{VFeAsO}_3$, because the Fe 3d electrons contribute to the main part of the Fermi surface.²³⁾ The slow temperature dependence of $1/T_{1\text{Short}}$ below T_c suggests that there is no large superconducting gap in the V electronic state. The $1/T_{1\text{Long}}$ is speculated to originate from the region where the spin fluctuations of the localized moment are accidentally canceled or absent owing to the inhomogeneity in the magnetic structure or the valence of Vanadium.

3.3 Summary

We have investigated the pressure dependence of T_c in some perovskite-type Fe-based superconductors through the resistivity measurements. We observed the tendency that the T_c does not increase in the sample whose T_c is already high at ambient pressure. For example, the highest $T_c^{\text{onset}} = 47$ K in this study for $\text{Ca}_4(\text{Mg}, \text{Ti})_3\text{Fe}_2\text{As}_2\text{O}_y$ does not increase under pressure. In 21113 system, we observed the good scaling in the pressure dependence of the increase in T_c for each compound irrespective of the difference of the carrier density.

We also performed NMR measurement on $\text{Sr}_2\text{VFeAsO}_3$. We found that the phase transition with the strong enhancement of $1/T_1$ occurs at ~ 170 K. The internal field at As site develops rapidly below ~ 70 K. The T_1 becomes inhomogeneous below 40 K accompanied by the development of the internal field and the spin fluctuations giving the short T_1 become dominant at low temperatures. This major spin fluctuation does not show an obvious anomaly for the occurrence of the superconductivity. We can conjecture that the V-3d magnetic moments are almost localized and ordered in this system. Even if V-3d electrons somewhat contribute to the Fermi surface, the superconducting gap in the V orbitals is expected to be quite small.

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